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No.26

the Dragon and the Lamb

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position. Game openings are NOT available.

Deadline for all games is Tuesday, Dec 19.

Well, bloodfans, here we are with another issue of guts and gore. There is so much here that I have had to go to reduced type on a large portion of it. We have 1977K in its entirety with final comments from the players. Some of you newcomers may want to try to analyze the moves yourself. At any rate, I hope you enjoy the wrapup.

And our new game is filled already, and I regret that I had to turn some people away--even those who had expressed a desire some time earlier. I took the first seven people to send me money. Money always talks louder than anything else.

We finally had our little get together a couple of weeks ago as Don Ditter, Vic Carpenter, Larry Krauser, and two of my friends from the office came over to play. My two friends had never played Diplomacy before but they wielded the knife just like a true veteran. The blades were flying such that I thought I was in a Russian saber dance instead of a "friendly" little game. Don brought over his King-Maker and we spent the last six hours trying to play that. Don won the game just as the rest of us were getting the hang of it. Seriously, I didn't know what I was doing all night. When you invite everybody over to shoot some pool, beware the guy who brings his own stick.

This reduced type appeals to me somewhat. As large as the last several issues have been, I may have to change my format to reflect reduced type. It certainly would cost less, thereby cutting my losses. So don't be surprised if you see a significant change in the next issue or so.

And Robert Lipton, in issue #89, informs us that soon he will be folding The Mixumaxu Gazette. I consider this a profound loss to the hobby as TMG has been one of the premier dipzines for almost six years. We will miss you Robert, and we bid thee a sad farewell.

I regret that this issue will be going out about a week late. This being Thanksgiving weekend my printer is closed not only Thursday but also Friday and Saturday. So this will not go out until Tuesday the 28th. As a result, we also have to make our next deadline a week later. I hope this does not cause anybody any problems.

And now.....to the screams.

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1977CQ

Thermopylae

Spring, 1911

ENGLAND BRACES FOR AVALANCHE!!

AUSTRIA (Ditter) : Refuses builds. A Con-Tus, F Aeg + F Ion + F Tyr C A Con-Tus, A Fin-Nwy, A StP (S) A Fin-Nwy, A Mos-H, A Lvn-H, A Tyo-H, A Mun-H, A Ruh-H, A Sil-H

ENGLAND (Sokol) : F Lpl r/OTB, removes F Nwy. A Swe-Nwy, F Bal-Kie, A Edi-H, F Den (S) F Bal-Kie, F Lon-H

FRANCE (Morrison): Builds A Bre, plays 2 short. F Nth-Ska, F NAt-Nwg, F Mid-NAt, F Bel-Nth, A Wal-Yor, A Lpl (S) A Wal-Yor, A Bre-Wal, F Eng C A Bre-Wal, A Kie-Ber, A Hol-Kie, F Iri (S) A Lpl

There is a proposal for a 2-way draw between Austria and France. Please vote on this for next time and remember absence of a vote counts as YES.

Fall, 1911 orders are due by the deadline date.

1977HP

Trafalgar

Fall, 1908

THERE IS A SUCKER BORN EVERY MINUTE.

AUSTRIA (Crockett) : F Mid-r/NAf. F NAF (S) Italian F Wes-Mid, A Lvn-StP, A Mos-Ukr, A Boh (S) A Sil, A Tyo-Mun, F Alb-Ion, A Bul-Rum, A Gal-Ukr, A Pru-War, A Sil (S) A Pru-War, F Tun-H

ENGLAND (McElvaney): F NAt-Mid, F Eng (S) F NAt-Mid, F Mid-Spa(sc)(r/Bre,Iri,OTB), F Por (S) F Mid-Spa, A War-Mos(anni), A StP (S) A War-Mos, A Fin (S) A StP

GERMANY (Kodman) : F Swe-Nwy, A Ruh-Bel, A Mun-H, A Bre-Gas, A Bur (S) A Bre-Gas, A Ber-Swe, F Bal C A Ber-Swe

ITALY (Kelly) : F Wes-Mid, F Tyr-Wes, F Spa(sc) (S) F Wes-Mid, F Lyo (S) F Spa(sc), A Mar-Gas, A Pie-Mar, F Con-Aeg, A Smy-Con

SUPPLY CENTER CHART-----

1908

Austria: (11) Home, Ser, Gre, War, Bul, Mos, Sev, ~~Nat~~, Rum, Tun

EVEN

England: (5?) Home, ~~Nat~~, ~~Bel~~, Por, StP, ~~Spa~~, Bre?

REMOVE 1?

Germany: (10?) Kie, Ber, Den, Hol, Par, Swe, ~~Eng~~?, Mun, Nwy, Bel

BUILD 2

Italy : (8) Home, ~~Tun~~, Con, Ank, Smy, Mar, Spa

EVEN

Please take note that if England retreats to Brest he stays even; Germany will be at 9 but in either case still builds two.

Winter, 1908 and Spring, 1909 orders are due by the deadline date and may be made conditional upon the builds/removals.

-----1977HP Press-----

Prussia: General Bergoff has been put before the firing squad for not ordering the 12th armored division into Warsaw. It seems that Frau Eva enticed him into getting drunk and giving the division a 3-day pass.

Advertising may be described as the science of arresting the human intelligence long enough to get money from it.

--Stephen Leacock

the Dragon and the Lamb
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1978^{HQ} Apocolypse Fall, 1902

RED OCTOPUS GROWS TENTACLES!!

- AUSTRIA (Sherwood) : A Ser-Bul, F Gre (S) A Ser-Bul, A Tri-Ser, A Bud-Rum, A Mos-Lvn, A Gal-Ukr
- ENGLAND (Verheiden) : A Nwy-StP, F Nth-Den(dis), F Eng-Mid(r/Lon,Wal,Iri,OTB)
- FRANCE (Shreve) : A Spa-Mar, F Lyo-Spa(r/Tus,OTB), A Par-Gas, F Bre-Eng, F Mid (S) F Bre-Eng
- GERMANY(Kendter,Sr) : F Hel-Nth, F Den (S) F Hel-Nth, A Hol (S) A Bel, A Tyo-H, A Bel (S) A Hol, A Mun (S) A Tyo
- ITALY (Machir) : A Pie-Mar, A Ven-H, F Tyr-Lyo, F Wes (S) F Tyr-Lyo
- RUSSIA (Zornow) : F Sev-Rum, A Lvn-Mos, A Ukr (S) A Lvn-Mos, F GoB-StP
- TURKEY (Ledder) : F Smy-Aeg, A Bul-Ser(r/Con,OTB), F Bla (S) Russian F Rum-Sev A Arm-Sev

SUPPLY CENTER CHART-----1902

- Austria: (8) Home,Ser,Gre,War,Mos,Bul BUILD 2
- England: (4) Home,Nwy BUILD 1 (was 1 short)
- France : (5) Home,Spa,Por EVEN
- Germany: (6) Home,Den,Hol,Bel EVEN
- Italy : (4) Home,Tun EVEN
- Russia : (2) ~~Mos,Sev~~,StP,Rum REMOVE 2
- Turkey : (4) Home,~~Bul~~,Sev EVEN

Sweden is still neutral!
Winter,1902 and Spring,1903 orders are due by the deadline date.

-----Apocolypse Press-----

Constantinople to selected neighbors: Which is worse, a neighbor who never writes or one who stabs early in the game?

1977FL Cynoscephalae Winter,1908

- AUSTRIA: EVEN. Has A Lvn.
- GERMANY: A Edi r/Lpl,buils A Ber,A Kie,A Mun. Also has F Swe,F Nth,F Hel,F Yor, A Spa,A Lpl,F Mid,A Mar,A Pie,A Tyo
- ITALY : F Spa r/Lyo, Has F Lyo,A Tus,F Apu,A Rom,A Ven
- RUSSIA : A Vie r/Boh. Has A Boh,A Ukr,A Mos,A War
- TURKEY : Builds A Con,F Smy. Also has F Tyr,F Ion,A Vie,A Bud,F Sev,A Rum,F Bla, A Gal
- ENGLAND: Removes F Edi. Has F Nwg

Spring,1909 orders are due by the deadline date. Thanks to Jerry Rogowski for submitting standby orders for Italy, though they were not needed.

Unmentionables--those articles of ladies' apparel that are never discussed in public, except in full-page, illustrated ads.

---Changing Times

1976EN Derelict Fall,1907

HAIL! HAIL! THE GANG'S ALL HERE!!!!

ENGLAND (Kelly) : F StP(sc)-H, F Swe-Den, F Nwy-Nth, F Wal-Eng, F Nth-Hel
 FRANCE (Schiwautz): A Bre-Pic, A Par-Gas
 GERMANY (Kador) : A Pic (S) A Bur-Bel, A Bur-Bel, A Kie-H(u/o)
 ITALY (Berch) : A Ser-Tri, A Vie (S) A Tri-Bud, A Tri-Bud,
A Pie-Ven, F Spa-Wes, A Mar-Gas, F NAt-Lpl, F Mid-Eng,
F Por-Mid, F Tyr-Ion
 RUSSIA (Carson) : A Pru-Lvn, A Mos (S) A Pru-Lvn, A Gal (S) Turkish A Bud,
 F Ber-Bal
 TURKEY (Sokol) : A Bul-Ser, A Bud (S) A Bul-Ser, F Gre-H, F Adr-Tri,
F Rum-Bul(ec), A Ukr-Rum, A Sev-H

SUPPLY CENTER CHART-----1907

England: (6) Lon,Edi,Den,Nwy,Swe,StP BUILD 1
 France : (2) Par,Bre,~~Bel~~,~~Lpl~~ EVEN
 Germany: (4) Mun,Kie,Hol,Bel BUILD 1
 Italy : (11)Home,Tun,Tri,Spa,Mar,~~Bel~~,Vie,Por,Lpl,Ser BUILD 1
 Russia : (3) Mos,War,~~StP~~,~~Bud~~,Ber REMOVE 1
 Turkey : (8) Home,~~Bel~~,Gre,Sev,Rum,Bul,Bud BUILD 1

We welcome John Kador to our little group, and I thank Ron, Bill, and Pat for taking over the leaderless countries.

Winter,1907 and Spring,1908 orders are due by the deadline date.

-----1976EN Press-----

Warsaw-Fall,1907: Greetings, fellow European countries. You may not know who P.D.C.C. is but.....you will!!

Moscow to Ankara: What's this we hear about the Italians not letting you visit with the Pope?

Venice: The Derelict ship, having been abandoned by its former skipper, took on a new one, added a bit more crew, righted itself in the water, and sailed forth to find its destiny. Other WATERGATE abandonees should be so lucky!

1977KQ Apollyon Winter,1905

AUSTRIA: Builds A Vie. Also has A War, A Sil, A Tri, A Tyo, A Rom, A Boh
 ENGLAND: F StP r/OTB,removes F Wal. Has F Yor,F Eng
 FRANCE : Even. Has F Mid,F Bre,A Gas,A Spa,A Bur
 GERMANY: Builds A Ber. Also has A StP,F Nwy,F Nth,A Mun,F Edi,A Kie,A Lvn
 ITALY : Even. Has F Gre
 TURKEY : Even. Has F Nap,F Lyo,F Wes,F Tyr,F Ion,F Aeg,A Con,A Ukr,A Mos

Seasons were separated per player request. Many thanks to Don Ditter for submitting standby orders for Turkey, though they were not needed. Spring,1906 orders are due by the deadline date.

1977KQ Press

Turkish High Sea Command: Up till now, the Turkish fleet has shown great patience and restraint in not attacking a mouthy French army and press. But now the Turkish High Command deems that if England is to be saved from the Hun the French must allow the Turkish navy into the Atlantic or suffer. Turkey is sorry that the French campaign into England and Italy fared so poorly but to quote Italy's last press: "Why were others so stupid?" Thanks, Lee, for an excellent defense against tremendous odds.

Vienna: Held over one more month!: "The Green Slime That Wouldn't Die!"

Rome: Europe's finest physicians continue to battle feverishly against the "Black Plague" which has infested northern lands.

Paris: Remember, Kendter, don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes. By the way, do those mindless Turkish hoardes have eyes?

D&L PRESENTS: 1977K

Spring, 1901

AUSTRIA: F Tri-Alb, A Bud-Ser, A Vie-Tri
 ENGLAND: F Lon-Nth, A Lpl-Edi, F Edi-Nwg
 FRANCE: A Par-Bur, F Bre-Mid, A Mar-Pie
 GERMANY: F Kie-Den, A Ber-Kie, A Mun-Ruh
 ITALY: F Nap-Ion, A Ven-Pie, A Rom-Ven
 RUSSIA: F Sev-Bla, A Moe-Ukr, A War-Gal, F StP-GoB
 TURKEY: A Gon-Bul, A Smy-Gon, F Ank-Bla

Fall, 1901

AUSTRIA: A Tri-Bud, F Alb-Gre, A Ser (S) F Alb-Gre,
 ENGLAND: F Nth-Bel, A Edi-Nwy, F Nwg G A Edi-Nwy
 FRANCE: A Mar-Spa, F Mid-Por, A Bur-Ruh
 GERMANY: A Kie-Mun, A Ruh-Hol, F Den (S) Rueeian F GoB-Swe
 ITALY: F Ion-Tun, A Ven-Pie, A Rom-Ven
 RUSSIA: F GoB-Swe, A Ukr-Rum, A Gal + F Sev (S) A Ukr-Rum
 TURKEY: A Bul-Gre, A Gon-Bul, F Ank-Bla

Winter, 1901

AUSTRIA: (5) Home, Gre, Ser +A Vie, A Tri
 ENGLAND: (5) Home, Bel, Nwy +F Lon, F Lpl
 FRANCE: (5) Home, Spa, Por +A Par, F Mar
 GERMANY: (5) Home, Den, Hol +A Kie, A Ber

ITALY: (4) Home, Tun +F Nap
 RUSSIA: (6) Home, Rum, Swe +A War, A Moa
 TURKEY: (4) Home, Bul +F Smy

Spring, 1902

AUSTRIA: A Bud-Gal, A Vie (S) A Bud-Gal, A Tri-Bud, A Ser-Bul,
 F Gre (S) A Ser-Bul
 ENGLAND: F Nwg-Nat, F Lpl-Iri, F Lon-Eng, F Bel-Pic, A Nwy-H
 FRANCE: F Por-Mid, F Mar-Spa(sc), A Spa-Gaa, A Par (S) A Ruh-Bur,
 A Ruh-Bur
 GERMANY: A Kie-Ruh, A Hol (S) A Kie-Ruh, F Den-H, A Mun-Bur,
 A Ber-Mun
 ITALY: F Nap-Ion, A Pie-Mar, A Ven-H, F Tun-Wea
 RUSSIA: A Rum (S) Turkish A Bul-Ser, F Sev (S) A Rum, A Gal-Boh,
 A War-Gal, A Moe-Ukr, F Swe-H
 TURKEY: A Bul-Ser, A Gon-Bul, F Bla (S) A Gon-Bul, F Smy-Aeg

Fall, 1902

AUSTRIA: A Gal-Rum, A Bud + A Ser (S) A Gal-Rum, A Vie (S) Italia
A Ven-Tvo(nso), F Aeg (S) Italian F Ion-Aeg(nso, r/Alb)
 ENGLAND: F Iri-Mid, F Nat (S) F Iri-Mid, F Pic-Bre, F Eng (S) F
 Pic-Bre, A Nwy (S) Russian F Swe
 FRANCE: F Mid-Bre(r/NAf), A Par (S) F Mid-Bre, A Gae (S) A Bur-M
F Spa(sc) (S) A Bur-Mar(r/GoL), A Bur-Mar
 GERMANY: A Mun-Bur, A Ruh (S) A Mun-Bur, A Hol-Bel, F Den-H,
 A Ber-Mun
 ITALY: A Mar-Spa, F Wea (S) A Mar-Spa, F Ion-Adr, A Ven-Tri
 RUSSIA: F Swe-H, A Ukr-Gal, A War + A Boh (S) A Ukr-Gal, F Sev (S)
 A Rum, A Rum (S) A Ukr-Gal(r/Ukr)
 TURKEY: A Bul-Gre, A Gon (S) F Bla-Bul(ec), F Bla-Bul(ec), F Aeg
 (S) A Bul-Gre

Winter, 1902

AUSTRIA: (4) ~~Tri~~, Vie, Bud, Ser, ~~Gre~~, Rum -A Rum
 ENGLAND: (4) Home, Nwy, ~~Bel~~ -F Nat
 FRANCE: (4) Home, Por, ~~Spa~~ -A Par
 GERMANY: (6) Home, Hol, Den, Bel +A Ber

ITALY: (6) Home, Tun, Spa, Tri +A Ven, F Nap
 RUSSIA: (5) Home, Swe, ~~Ukr~~ -F Swe
 TURKEY: (5) Home, Bul, Gre +F Smy

Spring, 1903

AUSTRIA: F Alb-Tri, A Ser + A Bud + A Vie(r/Tyo) (S) F Alb-Tri
 ENGLAND: A Nwy-StP, F Pic-Bre, F Eng (S) F Pic-Bre, F Mid (S)
Italian A Spa(otm)
 FRANCE: A Gae-Spa, F Naf-Tun, F Gol-Tyr, A Mar-Pie
 GERMANY: F Den-Swe, A Ber-Mun, A Mun-Bur, A Ruh (S) A Mun-Bur,
 A Bel-Pic, A Bur-Gas
 ITALY: A Tri (S) Russian A Gal-Vie, A Ven + F Adr (S) A Tri,
 F Nap-Ion, F Wes-Tun, A Spa-Mar
 RUSSIA: A Ukr-Rum, F Sev (S) A Ukr-Rum, A Gal-Vie, A War-Gal,
 A Boh (S) A Gal-Vie
 TURKEY: F Smy-Con, A Con-Bul, A Gre (S) A Con-Bul, F Aeg (S) A Gre,
 F Bul(ec)-Bla

Fall, 1903

AUSTRIA: A Bud-Tri, A Tyo + A Ser(r/OTB) (S) A Bud-Tri, F Alb-Adr
 ENGLAND: F Mid-Por, F Bre-H, F Eng-Bel, A StP-Mos
 FRANCE: A Pie-Mar, A Spa (S) A Pie-Mar, F Naf-Tun, F Tyr-Nap
 GERMANY: F Swe-H, A Mun-Sil, A Bur (S) French A Pie-Mar, A Ruh-Mur
 A Pic-Par, A Gas (S) French A Spa
 ITALY: A Mar-Pie(anni), A Ven-Rom, F Adr-Ven, F Ion-Nap,
A Tri-H(r/OTB), F Wes-Spa(sc)
 RUSSIA: A Gal-Bud, A Rum + A Vie (S) A Gal-Bud, F Sev (S) A Rum,
 A Boh (S) A Vie
 TURKEY: A Bul-Ser, A Gre (S) A Bul-Ser, F Aeg (S) A Gre,
 F Bla-Bul(ec), F Con (S) F Bla-Bul(ec)

Winter, 1903

AUSTRIA: (1) ~~Yle, Zde, Zde, Tri~~ -A Tyo, A Tri
 ENGLAND: (8) Home, Nwy, Bel, Por, Mos, Bre +F Edi, A Lpl, A Lon (1 short)
 FRANCE: (3) ~~Yle, Zde, Zde, Mar, Spa, Tun~~ -A Spa
 GERMANY: (7) Home, Hol, Den, Yle, Swe, Par +A Ber

ITALY: (3) Home, ~~Yle, Zde, Zde~~ -F Wee
 RUSSIA: (6) War, Sev, StP, ~~Yle, Zde,~~ +A War
Rum, Vie, Bud
 TURKEY: (6) Home, Bul, Gre, Ser +F Smy

Spring, 1904

AUSTRIA: F Adr-Apu
 ENGLAND: F Edi-Nwg, A Lpl-Edi, A Lon-H, F Bel-Eng, F Bre-Mid,
 F Por-Spa(sc), A Mos (S) German A Sil-War
 FRANCE: A Mar-Pie, F Tyr (S) F Tun, F Tun-H
 GERMANY: A Ber-Sil, F Swe-H, A Sil-War, A Bur-Mun, A Mun-Tyo,
 A Par-Pic, A Gas-Bur
 ITALY: F Ven-Tri, F Ion-Nap, A Rom-Ven
 RUSSIA: F Sev-H, A Rum-Ukr, A War (S) A Rum-Ukr(r/Lvn), A Boh-Sil
 A Bud-Gal, A Vie (S) Turkish A Ser-Tri
 TURKEY: A Ser-Tri, A Gre-Ser, F Aeg-Gre, F Bul(ec)-H, F Con-Aeg,
 F Smy-Eas

Fall, 1904

AUSTRIA: NMR! F Apu-H
 ENGLAND: F Spa (S) German A Bur-Mar, F Mid-Naf, F Eng-Mid, A Lon-Yor,
 A Edi-Nwy, F Nwg C A Edi-Nwy, A Mos-StP
 FRANCE: A Pie (S) German A Tyo-Ven(nso), F Tun-H, F Tyr-Nap
 GERMANY: A Pic-Bur, A Bur-Mar, F Swe-GoB, A War-Mos, A Ber-Sil,
 A Tyo-Boh, A Mun (S) A Tyo-Boh
 ITALY: F Ven-Apu, A Rom (S) F Nap, F Nap (S) F Ven-Apu
 RUSSIA: F Sev-H, A Gal-War, A Ukr-Mos, A Boh-Tyo, A Lvn (S) A Ukr-Mo
 A Vie (S) A Boh-Tyo
 TURKEY: A Tri (S) Italian F Ven(otm), A Ser (S) A Tri, F Eas-Ion,
 F Gre + F Aeg (S) F Eas-Ion, F Bul(ec)-H

Winter, 1904

AUSTRIA: (0) ~~Yle~~ OUT
 ENGLAND: (9) Home, Nwy, Bel, Por, Bre, Yle, StP, Spa +A Edi, F Lon
 FRANCE: (1) ~~Yle, Zde, Tun~~ -F Tyr, F Tun
 GERMANY: (9) Home, Hol, Den, Swe, Par, Mar, War +A Kie, A Ber

ITALY: (3) Home EVEN
 RUSSIA: ~~Yle, Sev, Zde, Rum, Vie, Bud, Mos~~ -A Boh
 TURKEY: Home, Bul, Gre, Ser, Tri +A Smy

Spring, 1905

ENGLAND: F Mid-Eng, F Naf-Mid, F Spa-H, F Lon-Nth, A Yor-Lon,
 A Edi-H, A StP (S) Russian A Lvn, A Nwy-Swe, F Nwg-Nwy
 FRANCE: A Pie-Mar
 GERMANY: A War + F GoB (S) English A StP-Lvn(nso), A Sil-Boh,
 A Mun + A Tyo (S) A Sil-Boh, A Ber-Sil, A Kie-Ber,
 A Bur-Mar, A Mar-Pie
 ITALY: F Ven (S) Turkish A Tri, A Rom (S) F Ven, F Nap-Tyr
 RUSSIA: NMR! F Sev-H, A Gal-H, A Mos-H, A Lvn-H, A Vie-H
 TURKEY: A Smy-Arm, F Bul-Bla, F Gre-Ion, F Aeg (S) F Gre-Ion,
 F Ion-Adr, A Ser-Bud, A Tri (S) A Ser-Bud

Fall, 1905

ENGLAND: F Spa (S) French A Pie-Mar, F Mid-Wes, A Lon-Bel,
 F Eng C A Lon-Bel, A Edi-Hol, F Nth C A Edi-Hol, A Swe-Den,
 F Nwy-Swe, A StP (S) Russian A Lvn
 FRANCE: A Pie-Mar
 GERMANY: F GoB-Swe, A War-H(r/OTB), A Sil (S) A War, A Ber-Kie,
 A Mun-Ruh, A Boh-Mun, A Bur-Bel, A Tyo-Pie, A Mar (S) A
Tyo-Pie(r/Gas)
 ITALY: F Ven (S) Turkish A Tri, A Rom (S) F Ven, F Tyr-Tun
 RUSSIA: F Sev-H(r/OTB), A Gal-War, A Lvn + A Mos (S) A Gal-War,
 A Vie-Gal
 TURKEY: A Arm-Sev, F Bla (S) A Arm-Sev, F Ion-Tyr, F Aeg-Ion,
 F Adr (S) A Tri, A Bud-H, A Tri (S) A Bud

Winter, 1905

ENGLAND: (11) Home, Nwy, Bel, Por, Bre, StP, Spa, Hol, Den +A Edi, F Lpl
 FRANCE: (1) ~~Yle, Mar~~ EVEN
 GERMANY: (5) Home, Par, ~~Yle, Zde, Swe, Yle, Yle~~ -A Pie, A Sil, A Mun

ITALY: (4) Home, Tun +F Nep
 RUSSIA: (4) Mos, War, Zde, Rum, Vie, Yle EVEN
 TURKEY: (9) Home, Bul, Gre, Ser, Tri, Bud, Sev +A Con, A Ank

Spring, 1906

ENGLAND: A StP-Fin, F Nwy-Sws, A Edi-Bsl, F Nth C A Edi-Bsl,
A Hol-Kie, A Dsn (S) A Hol-Kis, F Lpl-Iri, A Lon-Pic,
F Eng C A Lon-Pic, F Spa (S) F Wee, F Wes (S) Italian F Wss

FRANCE : A Mar-Ges

GERMANY: F GoB-Bal, A Kie-Hol, A Ruh (S) A Kie-Hol, A Bur-Bsl,
A Ges-Brs

ITALY : F Nap-Ion, F Vsn-Apu, A Rom-Tun, F Tun-Wse

RUSSIA : A Gal-Rum, A War-Ukr, A Lvn-StP, A Mos (S) A Lvn-StP

TURKEY : A Ssv-Ukr, F Ble C A Con-Rum, A Ank-Arm, A Con-Rum,
A Bud (S) A Con-Rum, A Tri-Vis, F Adr (S) F Ion, F Ion-H,
F Tyr-Lyo

Fall, 1906

ENGLAND: A Pin-Nwy, F Sws-Bal, A Hol-Kie, A Den (S) A Hol-Kie,
A Edi-Bel, F Nth C A Edi-Bel, F Eng + A Pic (S) A Edi-Bel,
F Iri-Mid, F Spa-Mar, F Wes-Spa

FRANCE : A Gae-Par

GERMANY: F Bal-Den, A Kie-Hol, A Bur-Bel, A Ruh (S) A Bur-Bel,
A Bre-H

ITALY : F Tun (S) Turkish F Lyo-Wse, A Tua-Pie, F Nap-Rom,
F Apu-Nap

RUSSIA : A StP-H, A Gel-Ukr(r/Wer), A Moe (S) A Gel-Ukr, A War-Sil

TURKEY : F Lyo-Wse, F Ion (S) Italian F Tun, F Adr (S) F Ion,
A Vie (S) A Bud-Gal, A Bud-Gal, A Rum (S) A Ssv-Ukr,
A Ssv-Ukr, A Arm-Ssv, F Bla (S) A Arm-Ssv

Winter, 1906

ENGLAND: (11) Home, Nwy, Bel, Por, ~~Wss~~, ~~Wss~~, Spa, Hol,
Dsn, Sws, Mar

FRANCE : (1) ~~Wss~~, Par

GERMANY: (4) Homs, ~~Wss~~, ~~Wss~~, Brs

EVEN

EVEN

-A Bre

ITALY : (4) Home, Tun

RUSSIA : (3) Mos, War, ~~Wss~~, ~~Wss~~, StP

TURKEY : (11) Home, Bul, Gre, Ssr, Tri, Bud, Sev, Rum, Vie

EVEN

-A Sil

+F Smy, A Con

Spring, 1907

ENGLAND: A Nwy (S) Russian A StP(otm), F Swe-Den, A Den-Kie(anni),
F Nth-Hel, A Bel-Ruh, A Hol (S) A Bsl-Ruh, F Eng-Brs,
A Pic (S) French A Par-Bur(nso), F Spa (S) F Mar,
F Mid (S) Italian F Tun-Wes(nso), F Mer (S) F Spa

FRANCE : A Per (S) English A Bel-Bur(nso)

GERMANY: A Bur (S) Italian A Pie-Mar, A Ruh-Hol(r/Mun), F Bal-Den,
A Kis (S) F Bel-Den

ITALY : F Tun-Naf, A Pie-Mar, F Rom-Tus, F Nap-Rom

RUSSIA : A War-H, A StP-Lvn, A Mos-StP

TURKEY : F Smy-Asg, A Sev-Ukr, A Rum (S) A Sev-Ukr, A Arm-Sev, A Gal
(S) A Sev-Ukr, F Bla (S) A Arm-Sev, A Con-Bul, A Vie-H,
F Ion-Tyr, F Adr-H, F Wes (S) Italian F Tun-Naf

Fall, 1907

ENGLAND: F Bre (S) F Mid, F Mid (S) F Spa, F Spa (S) F Mar,
F Mar (S) F Spa, A Nwy (S) Russian A StP, F Swe-Den,
F Hsl-Kie, A Hol (S) F Hel-Kis, A Ruh-Mun, A Pic-Bel

FRANCE : A Par-Bur

GERMANY: F Den (S) A Kie, A Kie (S) F Den(r/Ber), A Mun (S) A Kie,
A Bur-Bel

ITALY : F Naf (S) Turkish F Wes-Mid, A Pie-Mar, F Tus-Lyo, F Rom-

RUSSIA : A War-H, A StP-Mos, A Lvn (S) A War

TURKEY : F Asg-Ion, F Adr (S) F Aeg-Ion, F Tyr-Wes, F Wes-Mid,
A Vis-Boh, A Gel-War, A Rum-Gal, A Ukr (S) A Gal-War,
A Sev-Mos, A Bul-Ser, F Bla-H

Winter, 1907

ENGLAND: (12) Home, Nwy, Bel, Por, ~~Wss~~, ~~Wss~~, Spa, Hol,
Sws, Mar, Brs, Kie, ~~Wss~~

FRANCE : (1) Par

GERMANY: (3) Mun, Ber, ~~Wss~~, ~~Wss~~, Den

+F Lon, A Edi

EVEN

-A Bur

ITALY : (4) Home, Tun

RUSSIA : (3) Mos, War, StP

TURKEY : (11) Home, Bul, Grs, Ssr, Tri, Bud,
Ssv, Rum, Vie

EVEN

EVEN

EVEN

Spring, 1908

ENGLAND: F Mer-Lyo(anni), F Spa (S) F Mer-Lyo, F Mid (S) F Spe,
F Bre (S) F Mid, F Lon-Nth, A Edi-Yor, F Swe-Den, F Kie-Bal,
A Nwy (S) Russian A StP(otm), A Hol-Kie, A Pic-Bsl,
A Ruh (S) A Hol-Kie

FRANCE : A Par-Bur

GERMANY: F Den-Kis, A Bsr (S) F Den-Kie, A Mun (S) F Den-Kie

ITALY : F Lyo-Mar, A Pie (S) F Lyo-Mar, F Tue-Lyo, F Naf-Mid

RUSSIA : A StP-Mos, A War (S) A StP-Mos(r/Pru), A Lvn (S) A StP-Mos

TURKEY : F Wss-Spa, F Tyr (S) Italian F Tus-Lyo, F Adr-H, F Bla-H,
F Ion (S) F Tyr, A Ser-Bud, A Rum-Gal, A Gal-War, A Boh-Sil,
A Ukr (S) A Gal-War, A Sev-Mos

Fall, 1908

ENGLAND: F Spa (S) F Mid(r/Por), F Brs (S) F Mid, F Mid (S) F S
A Ruh-Mun, A Bel-Ruh, A Hol-Kie, F Den (S) A Hol-Kie,
A Nwy-StP, F Bal (S) Russian A Pru-Ber, A Yor-Nwy,
F Nth C A Yor-Nwy

FRANCE : A Bur (S) English A Ruh-Mun

GERMANY: F Kie (S) A Ber(r/OTB), A Ber (S) F Kie(anni), A Mun (S) F Kie

ITALY : F Mar + F Lyo (S) Turkish F Wes-Spa, A Pie (S) F Mar,
F Naf-Mid

RUSSIA : A Pru-Ber, A Mos-Wer(anni), A Lvn (S) A Moe-War

TURKEY : F Wes-Spe, F Tyr-Wes, F Ion-Tyr, F Adr-Ion, A Bud-Vie,
A Sil (S) German A Mun, A Gal (S) A War, A Sev-Mos,
A War + A Ukr (S) A Sev-Mos, F Bla-Con

Winter, 1908

ENGLAND: (12) Home, Nwy, Bel, Por, ~~Wss~~, ~~Wss~~, Hol,
Swe, ~~Wss~~, Bre, Kis, Den, StP

FRANCE : (1) Par

GERMANY: (1) Mun, ~~Wss~~, ~~Wss~~

+A Lon

EVEN

EVEN

ITALY : (5) Home, Tun, Mar

RUSSIA : (1) ~~Wss~~, ~~Wss~~, ~~Wss~~, Ber

TURKEY : (14) Homs, Bul, Gre, Ssr, Tri, Bud,
Ssv, Rum, Vie, War, Moe, Spa

+A Ven

-A Lvn

+A Ank, A Smy(1 shor

Spring, 1909

ENGLAND: F Por + F Bre (S) F Mid, F Mid (S) Italian F Lyo-Spa(nso),
F Nth-Eng, A Bel-Pic, A Kie-Mun, A Ruh (S) A Kie-Mun,
F Den-Kie, F Bal-Ber, A StP-H, A Nwy-H, A Lon-H
FRANCE : A Bur (S) English A Kie-Mun
GERMANY: A Mun-H(anni)
ITALY : A Ven-Pie, F Mar-Lyo, A Pie-Mar, F Lyo-Tus, F Naf-Mid
RUSSIA : A Ber-H
TURKEY : F Wes-Mid, F Spa (S) F Wes-Mid, F Tyr-Wes, F Ion-Tyr,
F Con-Aeg, A Smy-Arm, A Ank-Con, A War-Pru, A Gal-Boh,
A Sil (S) A War-Pru, A Vie-Tyo, A Mos-StP, A Ukr-War

Fall, 1909

ENGLAND: F Eng + F Por (S) F Mid, F Mid (S) Italian F Lyo-Spa(nso),
F Bre-Gas, A Pic-Par, A Lon-Wal, A Ruh (S) A Mun, F Kie-Ber
A Mun + F Bal (S) F Kie-Ber, A StP-Mos, A Nwy-StP
FRANCE : A Bur (S) English A Mun
GERMANY: No units
ITALY : A Mar-Bur, A Pie-Mar, F Naf-Mid, F Lyo (S) F Tue-Pie,
F Tus-Pie
RUSSIA : A Ber-H
TURKEY : F Spa-H, F Wes-Tun, F Tyr-Rom, F Ion-Nap, A Tyo-Ven,
F Aeg-Ion, A Con-Bul, A Arm-Sev, A Mos-StP, A Pru-Ber,
A Sil-Mun, A War-Lvn, A Boh (S) A Sil-Mun

Winter, 1909

ENGLAND: (15) Home, Nwy, Bel, Por, Hol, Swe, Bre, Kie, Den, StP,
Mun, Ber, Par
FRANCE : (0) ~~xxx~~
GERMANY: (0) ~~xxx~~

ITALY : (1) ~~xxx, xxx, xxx, xxx~~, Mar
RUSSIA : (0) ~~xxx~~
TURKEY : (18) Home, Bul, Gre, Ser, Tri, Bud, Sev, Rum, Vie, War,
Mos, Spa, Ven, Rom, Nap, Tun

COMMENTARY FROM TURKEY

I was pleased to win this game as I was quite unhappy in the early stages. First, I opted for a Rus-Tur alliance, but I later was to regret it as Russia was a poor diplomat. Often, his replies came one or two days before the deadline, if at all. This made planning very difficult. I decided to look elsewhere for an ally, and planned to stab the Russian at the earliest possible moment. My real problem was an apparent Aus-Ita alliance. However, Austria kept trying to get me to ally with him as he mistrusted the Italian from previous experiences. I didn't like the attitude of the Austrian, so I made a strong diplomatic effort towards Italy. My telling him of the Austrian mistrust helped to cause him to stab the Austrian. This made my position look a little better.

Meanwhile, the Eng-Ger alliance was beginning to look very strong, and this again prevented me from stabbing the Russian. Without him on my side, they (E-G) would grow too fast. Italy was under siege from France and not really in a good position to help me. I was quite sure at that point that the game would end in a 4- or 5-way draw.

Then England came forth with a very daring offer to simultaneously stab both our allies. I would hit Russia, and he Germany. I agreed to this figuring it was worth the risk, and it would prevent the draw I felt was unacceptable. However, I did not follow through on one part, that was my attacking Italy. I figured he would be my ace in the hole. As it turned out England never kept his agreement past the original stab, so I was glad to have Italy on my side. All that I had to do now was wait for the right moment. Obviously, my timing was right.

I thank Jerry for being a great ally. I'm sorry it had to be him as my victim. Thanks also to Bob Sergeant for hanging on as he did. His offer to fight only England if I would leave him alone was very important to my strategy. A tip of the hat to Steve for an excellent example of first class games-mastering.

COMMENTARY FROM GERMANY

I initially wanted an alliance with France against England. I heard from Austria that he and France were already allied--in the first letter. Phone usage being what it is, I saw no reason to doubt it. However, I did not care for the implications of Austria and France taking out Italy immediately, so I tried negotiations with England.

England was very non-committal, which usually means problems. Then France attacked me and claimed Italy had given him information that I was going to attack Burgundy. He claimed Italy had given him the information over the phone. I called the Italian and discussed it. He pointed out that he never used the phone in playing, and that had been my experience. Then in the Fall, after I told France I would be covering myself, he moved into the Ruhr. A rather foolish move, unless he was counting on an alliance with England.

However, in 1902 England attacked France with me and France began to suicide against Italy for some unknown reason. In 1903, I had to decide whether to attack Italy or England. I would have preferred to attack England since my position was better against him, and he was the major long-term threat. But I received a letter from Italy stating that an attack on England would be an attack on him. England had made no such statement so I attacked Italy.

In 1904 I received a letter from Turkey saying that he would attack his ally Russia if I would stab England, otherwise he threatened to throw up a stalemate line. I was not convinced that Turkey and Russia were in a position to do that, so I refused his offer. England was evidently more convinced than I was by this ploy because in 1905 he stabbed me. Presumably Turkey had written him the same thing.

England did not, however, have the armies to make this stab profitable, and most importantly, he did not have any of his forces on the other side of the customary stalemate line. To win, and Turkey's offer was a race for a win, NOT a draw, England had to completely take my centers, and the one belonging to the French puppet. England was forced to use the services of Russia, which meant that the Russian centers were going to go to Turkey, since they had no stalemate line there either. I told Turkey I was willing to play for second, and if he would not attack me I would hold England off until Turkey could achieve the win.

I did this simply because I do not like to be stabbed ineptly. A year later, a stab by England might have won him the game. At the time he did it, he was simply not in a position to win by doing it, if I chose to fight him.

I was not at my best in this game. At the time it started, I was suffering a temporary loss of enthusiasm so I sat back and let the more active diplomats take direction of the game. And that's always a losing policy. I congratulate Lee Kendter on his victory, and assure him there are no hard feelings.

COMMENTARY FROM ITALY

I'm too trusting for my own good. Who else still drives an Edsel, has a quadraphonic stereo, a three dimensional 35mm camera, and owns 500 shares in the Studebaker Auto Co? But Lee played it well and deserved the win. By the way, Lee, I've decided against that Florida property you mentioned.

A lot of the praise for a good game goes to the GM, a bad one can make the time like a spell of major dental surgery, without anesthesia. Thanks, Painless McLendon.

COMMENTARY FROM ENGLAND

I began by writing a lot of letters to France, Germany, and Russia. France and Germany both corresponded at great length with me, and I agreed to ally with each of them. My early moves were quite ambiguous; I made it a policy to tell each of my allies what I was going to do, as far as possible, in order to build up their confidence in my reliability.

In Winter, 1901 I chose Germany to ally with "permanently"--which means several years, at least. Germany seemed the better choice because he projected an image (which turned out to be true) of 100% honesty, while France was too much of a realist and too obviously a dangerous player to successfully project such a trustworthy image. I played honest with Germany, and would have remained so throughout the game in the absence of an opportunity to stab.

BUT, there was an opportunity. In 1904 the game seemed to have pretty well settled down into a dull grind (as the GM's headlines reflected)--England and Germany were firmly allied and so were Russia and Turkey. The game seemed to be headed toward a 4- or 5-way draw. I would soon have no units in position to betray my ally, and would have been forced to stay with him until the end. So I began an active campaign by mail to persuade Turkey to join me in a double stab, he of Russia and I of Germany. Turkey agreed. Had he not, I would have continued my alliance and the course of the game would have been completely different.

The House Rules which combined the Winter, 1904 and Spring, 1905 seasons, and which allowed Turkey and I to make our Spring, 1905 orders conditional upon each others' winter builds, made the double stab possible. If the GM has kept my original orders he can verify that if Turkey had not sent in the particular build that he did, my moves would have remained completely loyal to my German ally and in fact would have shifted me out of position for an effective later stab.

With the combined seasons my anti-German Winter, 1904 builds did not cause him to take any defensive measures in Spring, 1905--he would have had to have been psychic to send in the right conditional orders. I agree that combined seasons are great for speeding up a game, but in this case they were somewhat unfair since they, in effect, gave the stabbers a free move.

After setting up the double stab, I went one step further and stabbed a stabber. I sent complete information about Turkey's intentions to Russia, along with suggested countermeasures for Russia to protect himself. Had he taken my advice, I think that I had a good chance to roll over Germany with my stab while Turkey would have been stalled and would have made essentially no progress. I believed that I had a genuine chance for a quick win--until I saw the zine and read that Russia had NMR'ed and dropped out! That action went a long way toward determining the outcome of the game.

I tried to ally with the new Russian player and get his aid against Germany, but he was hesitant and it ended up taking me several years longer than I had planned to reduce the German forces sufficiently. Turkey, in the meantime, made great progress against weak Russian defense and simultaneously managed to enlist Italy as a puppet. I suppose in exchange for some small favors (perhaps Italy or Turkey will explain). My last chance to stop the Turkish win was in 1908, but my pleas with Italy to join me and form a stalemate line and a 3-way draw failed. I don't know why Italy refused to go for the draw with me, and accepted a 1-unit finish instead; Turkey's intentions were obvious. Perhaps my correspondence was insufficiently persuasive--I tried as best as I could.

That's the game as I saw it--an ambiguous opening which let me choose my ally as late as possible, a loyal middle game in which we made progress together, a double-stab that could have been a triple-stab but for an NMR, and an unfortunate (for me) endgame. Besides the desire to win, a major motivation on my part (and probably on Turkey's part) for the stab was the goal of making this a more exciting "demo" game for the GM's zine. Perhaps we succeeded.

In closing, I would like to publicly apologize to Bob Sergeant for betraying him so viciously(?). Bob, I like you a lot, more than anyone else I've met by mail in this hobby. Your honesty--above-all strategy will pay dividends in the long run, in terms of better alliances and higher average results. I would only suggest that you not trust your allies quite as much as you trusted me--most of them (like me) will repay your honesty as long as you don't tempt them too much. You can certainly argue that we both would have done better had I not stabbed you--we did have 18 centers between us in 1904, and the game result is evidence for your argument. But I think that my expected result (had Russia not dropped out in Spring, 1905) from the stab made my choice justified. Maybe I'm wrong. In any event, I hope we can still be friends, Bob.

I also want to thank Frank McIlvaine for getting my part of the board off to an interesting start, and to thank Don Ditter for being such a fine ally for the last half of the game. My congratulations to Lee Kendler, Sr for a nice win!

This is my last game of Diplomacy, and I'm glad to see it over. I think that Diplomacy and the Diplomacy concept (simultaneous movement, no random factors, multi-player alliances) is probably the most significant gaming development of the past few centuries, and I wish the hobby well. But I find that I no longer have sufficient free time and energy to give the game the extended correspondence and attention it deserves if it is to be really well-played. (My double/triple stab of 1905 was my last burst of effort).

I've also become absorbed in what I think of as the most significant gaming development of the last few millennia--the game of go. Go takes simplicity of structure to its peak; the game is an extraordinary example "much out of little", to quote John Wheeler. Go is what chess should have been and isn't--it emphasizes positional play and pattern recognition, not tactical tree-searching. The best computer chess programs have almost reached master level; the best go programs are utter novices that a person can beat after playing the game for only a few hours.

I could try to say more about go, but it probably wouldn't make much sense unless the reader knows the game, and I won't make you type it up, Steve. I'd like to thank you for an excellently run Diplomacy game--you're on a par with John Boardman as a great GM, and your zine is always a pleasure to read.

Well, there you have it. I am very humbled by all the nice compliments, but believe me this game was my pleasure. It was really hard fought by a class group of guys. It saddens me that Mark is leaving the hobby, I wish it were not so. You're a fine player, Mark--one of the best. We will miss you. So much talent has been lost to the hobby during the past 3 or 4 years; I fear our little organization may be crumbling.

Gone are Buchanan, Boyer, Birsan, Rocamora, Pulsipher, Beyerlein, Calhamer, and Lakofka. These talents will never be replaced, although some will argue that the last one doesn't need to.

LETTERS

From Rod Walker:

Dear Steve:

This will not be short. D&L 25 is here today and this is a response. Craig Reges' comments are valid (and he's after all in the right discipline; I'm not), but I'm not sure a list of exceptions necessarily invalidates a whole point. I did, I confess, quite forget the fact that many micro-organisms produce toxins. Even so, I still contend that we must not assume that the medical science of an alien culture will be of much benefit to us.

In a recent article, Isaac Asimov estimates there may be currently in the galaxy some 50,000,000 cultures more advanced than ours. You ask if there might not be at least 1 which understands (or could understand) Man. It's quite possible they all understand us...which would certainly explain why they are having nothing to do with us.

Whether the USSR is today significantly more powerful than China is a moot point. China's reinvestment rate was approaching 30% at the end of the last decade, which is phenomenal. I would guess that a strategic military superiority over Russia will be achieved by the PRS not later than 1984/85.

Russia's chances of winning a Sino-Soviet war diminish each year. Siberia is sparsely populated, and the people of Central Asia are not exactly great lovers of the Russians. My estimate is that the Chinese will have little difficulty reaching the Urals.

Whether the Russians are "desperate" depends on how you define the term. The USSR now has more force at the Chinese frontier than in Europe. She is building military highways in Central Asia as fast as possible. She is bending all her efforts to create a strong military presence south of China via the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia. The Russians feel more and more caught between us and the Chinese... a situation not fully appreciated, nor exploited, in Washington.

Well, on to the bible quotations.

The correct citation is Isaiah 40:22. (Isaiah 40 is the first of the chapters composed by the Deutero-Isaiah toward the end of the Babylonian captivity.) In the King James it reads: "It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth...." The word "circle" might be better translated as "sphere", true. However, this single passage in no way shows that the Deutero-Isaiah, nor the ancient Hebrews/Jews, thought of the world as it is, a globe in space circling the sun. There is enough material in the Bible to convince scholars that the Hebrews conceived of the surface of the earth as a flat plane.

But the word "circle" or "sphere" here comes from a Babylonian milieu, and has to be understood from the point of view of Hebrew cosmology as modified by Babylonian beliefs. The Hebrews early believed in a universe which consisted of earth in the center, heaven arching above and Sheol arching below. Through this surrounding sphere the Sun, Moon, and five planets. (The seven branches of the menorah originally commemorated the seven bodies just mentioned.)

The Babylonians, however, postulated seven spheres, one for each of the seven heavenly bodies, one inside another. At the time of the Captivity, if not before, the Hebrews adopted the Babylonian cosmology, just as they picked up Mesopotamian creation myths, the tale of the Flood, and so on. This gradually changed into a cosmology of seven heavens and seven earths, and elaborate descriptions of all of them were developed. This material may still be found in a book which once had a high reputation among the Jews, but is not now regarded as canonical, Is Enoch.

Most of this cosmology is not detailed in the Hebrew books now accepted as canonical. However, the word "heaven" appears in the plural quite frequently in the Bible, often in reference to that cosmology. In fact, the verse you cite goes on: "[It is he...that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in...." That has reference not only to the 7 heavens, but specifically to the lowest, Wilon, which was regarded as a curtain which was drawn back at night to let the moon and stars shine.

When the Greeks adopted the Babylonian cosmology, some philosophers speculated that the heavenly spheres vibrated and produced perfect musical tones. That's the origin of our expression, "music of the spheres". Anyway, the passage in Isaiah is using "sphere" in that same sense, the "sphere of the earth" relating to the sphere which surrounds the planar earth on which we dwell.

****However, if you wish to have it that the Second Isaiah is saying that the world is a globe, there's no real objection to that. He lived in Babylon, which was still (in its decline) the major center of astro-nomic research and knowledge of the ancient world. Although there is no concrete evidence that any Babylonian observers believed in a spherical earth or a heliocentric planetary system, there is nothing to suggest it impossible, either. It is difficult to believe that they could have accumulated as much data as they did without some observers tumbling to the fact that the earth, moon, and sun (at least) were spherical bodies. The Deutero-Isaiah could have picked up that idea, possibly. There is nothing in the notion of a spherical earth which would conflict with the essential Hebrew weltanschauung. Anyway, while Isaiah II may or may not have accepted the idea of a spherical earth, his ideas were drawn from the Babylonian milieu and nowhere else.**

The passage you quote ~~xxx~~from Revelations stems ultimately from the same source as that from Isaiah (see below). I'd like to preface by observing that pulling fragmentary quotations from the Bible and extracting "meanings" from them without any regard to context (not to mention the intent of the author) is a bad procedure.

In the traditional Christian context, "Rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them..." is merely a poetic way of saying, "Rejoice, ye angels...". This simplistic interpretation in no way does violence to the intent of the author and the basic meaning of the phrase.

However, the phrase actually has deeper meanings, in that it is related to oriental mystery beliefs. Egyptian and Babylonian beliefs mingled throughout the ancient Middle East, producing all sorts of hybrid forms whose most important common feature is that their credo and cult were considered mysteries, to be revealed to the initiated only. Modern Masonry is a distant and feeble echo of those earlier secret societies.

In Egypt the mystery cult was Gnosticism, and there was a Gnostic branch of Christianity which deeply influenced the early Church in both positive and negative ways. That is, some Gnostic ideas were taken over by the Church, on one hand. On the other, some Church doctrines were developed specifically for fighting Gnosticism...the Trinity is foremost of those.

Gnosticism is a bewildering complex of ideas and beliefs, some of which are not mutually compatible. Egyptian religion had for millennia been a process of doublethink in which mutually exclusive or contradictory ideas may be simultaneously believed. So Gnosticism is typically Egyptian in that regard. The most basic common denominator of the Gnostic systems is the ~~xxxxxxx~~ idea that God did not create the universe. Instead, God in one way or another caused the Demiurge to be created (some Jewish heresies regarded Jehovah as the Demiurge). The Demiurge then created the material universe. The human soul is a divine spark imprisoned in a material shell (and the aim of the hidden beliefs of Gnosticism is to enable the enlightened soul to free itself from the travail of incarnation). The Gnostic Christians regarded Jesus as a creation of God, who opposed the essentially evil Demiurge/Jehovah.

In Judea there was a widespread sort of Gnosticism, which adopted much of the Gnostic cosmology (which resembled the Babylonian in its myriad heavens and hells) but rejected its theology. YHWH (Jehovah) was both God and Creator, opposed by the Enemy (a borrowing from Iranian dualism). These beliefs were held in varying ways by Pharisaic mystery societies, the Essenes, and North Palestinian sects generally... of which the modern Mandaeans (who regard John the Baptist as the Messiah) are direct descendants. These groups and sects shared the belief that Israel must be purified before the Messiah would come... although the Essenes seemed to believe that the efforts of their community alone could bring about that result. Jesus was influenced by Essene theology, but not their cosmology, which he rejected...apparently. Paul, however, was the Jewish equivalent of a Mason and accepted the cosmologies of the Pharisaic mystery societies.

The Book of Revelation, despite its enormous debt to Daniel, also owes a great debt to the Book of Enoch...which Paul himself (not to mention the author of Jude) regarded with much favor...see Hebrews 11:5 and Jude 14. In addition, where the symbology of Revelation's author is not drawn from Daniel (e.g., the Beast), or created for his own purposes (e.g., 616, the Number of the Beast [long since miswritten as "666"]), it is often clearly Gnostic (e.g., the Woman who is with Child).

By the way, the Gnostics are fascinating. There is good coverage of them in Joseph Campbell's Masks of God series (see the volume Occidental Mythology). The best book on them I've seen is Jean Doresse, The Secret Books of the Egyptian Gnostics, which includes the complete text of the Gnostic Gospel ("Thomas").

Anyway, Revelations 12:12 must ultimately be understood against the background of Gnosticism and Jewish mysticism. (Earlier, in Colossians, Paul wrote [1:16]: "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers...". Those are four orders of angels, higher than archangels, according to Gnostic and Jewish-mystic beliefs. The author of Revelations is similarly influenced. He appears to have been of Egyptian (Alexandrian) background; a Jew who had learned Greek, although not with surpassing fluency. When he speaks of the heavens and those who dwell in them, he is speaking of the seven heavens of Jewish mysticism and all the inhabitants: angels, archangels, thrones, dominions, principalities, powers, seraphim, cherubim, phoenixes, and whatnot. Oddly enough, the Book of Enoch has heaven doubling somewhat for hell. Sinners await judgement in the Second Heaven. Eden lies in the Third Heaven, but the tortures of Gehenna lie just north of Eden. The Fallen Angels are imprisoned in the Fifth Heaven. The Babylonian Talmud (compiled c. 500 A.D. but containing traditions far, far older) has some contrasting views: the Harba tractate also lists 7 heavens, but with considerably different functions. The author of Revelations was probably familiar with Enoch, but not with gavil.

I'll quit in a minute. Just a note here about the Number of the Beast, since I brought it up. Early MSS mostly read "616". This was apparently miswritten at some point to "666"...which is in itself a mystic number of gross imperfection...that is, it misses the perfect [mystical] number 7 thrice by 1.

Revelations has been variously dated, but it is now generally agreed to the mid-90s. That fits perfectly. The Imperial seal [of Domitian] for the year 95-96 (a new one was made annually) would have read "ID KAIΣAΡOS"...and the Greek values for those letters add up to 616. The inscription also has "10 heads"...that is, letters, which is one of the pointers involved in the symbology of the Beast. Oddly enough, the Greek values for NERO KAIΣAΡ also add up to 616, but Nero is manifestly not the Beast on chronological grounds alone...not to mention linguistic, since one has to drop a letter from the correct NERON KAIΣAΡ in order to get the right result. On the other hand, NERON KAIΣAΡ adds up to 666....

We will now have a 15-minute quiz.

//What a pleasure to discuss something like this with someone so learned (if you other guys are getting bored, tuff. I find it fascinating). And thanks for pointing out my typo error of Isaiah 41:22.

It is true that most of the ancient Hebrews thought of the earth as flat. But, many times, what people believe the Bible says and what it actually says are entirely different. Examples abound; many Christians today picture Satan (the Devil) as a sinister-looking demon with a tail, horns, and pitchfork. But the Bible actually says that Lucifer was the most beautiful of the angels; many Christians in the 1930s believed that Hitler (and in the latter 1940s, Stalin) was the AntiChrist, yet the Bible plainly stated that this could not be.

And of course Isaiah 40:22 in no way shows the earth as a globe in space circling the sun. I didn't say it did. In fact, it makes no mention of that aspect. All it says is that the earth is a sphere. Period.

My philosophy is to interpret Biblical passages literally, unless it is obvious that the passage is symbolic. The Bible is not a book that says one thing and means another. It has generally only one simple meaning. If a few passages have a double meaning, that is quite clear from the passage itself or from parallel passages. One cannot, as it is commonly believed, get a thousand different meanings from any one passage.

The Bible is not a specimen of God's skill as a writer or logician. It is a book written by men whom God used to record His revelation. God used these men by giving them freedom of expression to use their own language and ways of expressing truth. All that inspiration guarantees is unity of thought, not the sameness of words and expression.

The Bible is not a book of systematic discourses on any one subject, but it does give divine information on practically every subject. One must collect together here and there all God's information through various writers in order to get the whole truth. When this is done, there is perfect harmony throughout the Bible, and everything about the subject that Man really needs to know, is clear.

Too often this is not done, or, people try to see symbolism in every passage. This is why there are so many different sects within the Christian faith.

I agree wholeheartedly that "pulling fragmentary quotations from the Bible and extracting 'meanings' from them without regard to context (not to mention the intent of the author) is a bad procedure." But there are many Biblical passages that do stand by themselves. The passage of Rev 12:12 means exactly what it says, and you are taking unfounded liberties to say that it means simply, "Rejoice, ye angels.....". That Paul is referring to only spiritual beings is sheer speculation. At any rate, natural, flesh-and-blood life as we know it is certainly not prohibited.

You say the phrase actually has deeper meanings? Baloney! There you are trying to find hidden symbolism when a literal interpretation makes so much more sense. What you are doing is directly analogous to what God told Adam and Eve in Gen 2:16-17 and what they said God told them in Gen 3:2-3. Adding to and subtracting from, looking for hidden meanings--can get you in trouble.

The "ten heads" you speak of have nothing to do with letters at all. Rather, they are ten nations that form, in conglomerate, what was the old Roman Empire (territorially speaking). The AntiChrist (or Beast) will come from one of these ten nations. Specifically, the Bible makes it plain that the AntiChrist will come from Syria--not Russia, not Greece, not Germany, nor anywhere else.

Our basic difference, however, is that you believe that most Biblical writers borrowed from other cultures--Babylon, Egypt, China, etc. It is my belief that these writers had but ONE source. //

From Dwayne Shreve:

I'm inclined to think that alien cultures are avoiding direct contact with us because of the potential damage to our cultures. This would, of course, be radically different from the missionary mentality of the dogmas on our planet and presupposes some level of alien benevolence.

This makes sense if one assumes that survival of the fittest cultures involves development of benevolence, something our various ones have failed as yet to do.

//Very interesting concept.//

ON THE SUBJECT OF WOMEN'S LIB

I asked a Burmese why women, after centuries of following their men, now walk ahead. He said there were many unexploded land mines since the war.

--Robert Mueller

Most hierarchies were established by men who now monopolize the upper levels, thus depriving women of their rightful share of opportunities to achieve incompetence.

--Laurence J. Peter

The only way women could have equal rights nowadays would be to surrender some.

--Burton Hillis

Verily the best of women are those who are content with little.

--Mohammed(570-632)

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A society in which women are taught anything but the management of a family, the care of men, and the creation of the future generation is a society which is on the way out.

--L. Ron Hubbard

Give a woman a job and she grows balls. --Jack Gelber

NEW GAME STARTS!! (Inferno)

AUSTRIA: Glenn Ledder, 2249 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, NY 14216
 ENGLAND: Fred Zornow, 313 E. 90th St., 4A, New York, NY 10028
 FRANCE : John Sokol, 147 Virginia Ave., Uniontown, PA 19135
 ITALY : Dwayne Shreve, 2732 Ezekiel, Zion, Illinois 60099
 RUSSIA : George Pyfrom, 609 Chinquapin Dr., Eglin AFB, Florida 32542
 TURKEY : Michael Tucker, 753 Rockland, Lake Bluff, Illinois 60044
 GERMANY: Tom Zelinski, 653 Country Club Ave., Ft. Walton Beach, Florida 32548

I welcome Tom and Michael to our little funny farm. Good luck, gentlemen. I can hear the blades being sharpened already.

NEWS OF THE REALM

IMPORTED POTHOLES

Designers at British Leyland are importing potholes from the U.S.--they wanted to know if their export models could survive American streets. To obtain samples, they made plaster casts of selected U.S. urban potholes, from which rubber forms were then fabricated and shipped back to Britain. The holes were duplicated on Leyland's test track. In commenting on the "quality" of U.S. potholes, a British engineer stated: "Nothing beats a New York City hole for size and depth." //He apparently was never in Chicago.//

MALTREATED GOLDFISH

Under the category of over-zealous enforcement of government regulation, please file this item from Britain: An investigator for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals noticed that a goldfish in a bowl was being used as one of the props in a play. The inspector warned the cast and producer that using goldfish in such a manner constituted cruelty to animals. Although the producer complied by replacing the goldfish with a sliver of carrot, the RSPCA man decided the heinous crime required retribution and hauled the play's cast and producer into court. (Rumors are that the defense will base its case on the idea that a goldfish is not an animal.)

If you are looking for something different to play, look for two new variants to be out shortly. The first is a world variant that I have just about completed after about three months' effort. It is a 9-player variant and I am just now completing the final design to incorporate suggestions from Bob Sergeant, Mark Berch, and Eric Verheiden.

The second variant is a whopper! Initial plans call for a 19-player world variant. It is still in the initial design phase but since both Bob Sergeant and myself are designing portions of it, between the two of us it should be completed before too long. For this variant we need two things: Can we find 19 players and then can we find a GM who will run the thing. Any takers out there for players?

The 9-player variant (as yet untitled) should be ready to go by next issue. Just have to finalize some rule changes.



Submitted by Pat Carson.
(Merci beaucoup)

Well, I saw the Lord of the Rings last week. It turned out better than I thought it would. The animation was excellent, and sometimes you could not tell that it was animation. This first movie was 2 hours and 17 minutes long, with the other two segments coming later.

But I have one complaint: It moved too fast, even with splitting it up into three movies. Throughout the thing I felt like I was in a race-the names were flying too fast and so was the plot. DO NOT TAKE SOMEONE WHO IS NOT FAMILIAR WITH TOLKIEN! Believe me, he will be thoroughly confused. There is just no way you can take a work of that magnitude and turn it into only seven hours of movie (not if you want to do it justice).

Steve McLendon
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Webster, Texas 77598



___ Please standby in game ___
___ Your sub expires this issue ___

Rod Walker S30
"alcala"
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